

CONDITION OF THE MARKETS

The Upward March of Wheat Values Assumes a Very Buoyant Aspect.

An Advance of a Cent Secured at Chicago—Corn Slightly in Symptom—Oats Steady—Pork Lower.

MONEY, STOCKS AND BONDS.

The Market Dull, with Only Missouri Pacific and Lackawanna Showing Any Life. NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Money on call easier, ranging from 4 1/2 to 5 per cent, the last loan being made at 4 per cent, closing off at 3 per cent.

Prime mercantile paper, 5 1/2 to 7 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange quiet and steady at \$160 for sixty-day bills and \$154 1/2 for demand.

The total sales of stocks to-day were \$8,614 shares, including the following: Canada Southern, 2,400; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 13,300; Lake Shore, 4,000; Missouri Pacific, 17,200; Reading, 7,300; St. Paul, 6,800; Union Pacific, 4,700.

The general liquidation which has taken place in the stock market during the past few days made today's market an extremely dull one, without special feature of any kind. Only two stocks, Missouri Pacific and Lackawanna, showed any life whatever, and both, after advancing somewhat, retired again, losing most of the improvement. Outside of the two stocks mentioned, there seemed to be no speculative interest in the market, but foreign houses were buying on a limited scale, chiefly St. Paul and Union Pacific. There was a liberal buying of Missouri Pacific at the opening, and it rose rapidly and steadily until it was within 1/2 per cent of its yesterday's highest bid at 7 1/2, 1/2 then it rapidly retired to the opening figure and closed at a slight advance. Lackawanna was inclined to heaviness in the early trading, but toward the close there was a good demand for the stock at advancing prices, but it also sagged off before the close. The opening of the market was strong at advances over last evening's prices, extending to 1/2 per cent, but, except in the stocks mentioned, the fluctuations were confined within very narrow limits, and no decided tendency in either direction was shown, though a firm tone marked the dealings in the market. The final changes are all for small fractions, with advances largely in a majority.

Railroad bonds were relatively more active than stocks, the sales of all issues reaching \$607,000 for the two hours' session, and while a firm tone generally prevailed, there were few changes of importance to record. The Iron Mountain fives and the new Wash second were the most active.

Government bonds were dull and steady. State bonds were dull but firm. Closing quotations were:

Four per cent, 126	C. St. L. & P. ....	15
Four per cent, comp. 127	St. P. & O. pref. 41	15 1/2
Four and a half per cent, 104 1/2	Port Wayne, ....	15 1/2
Four and a half per cent, comp. 104 1/2	Illinois Central, 114	15 1/2
Pacific Co. of '95, 116	L. B. & W. ....	15 1/2
Louisiana stp d. 92, 124	Lake Erie & West, 18	15 1/2
Missouri Co., 102 1/2	L. E. & W. pref., 63 1/2	15 1/2
Missouri & N. O. Co., 102 1/2	Michigan Central, 98 1/2	15 1/2
Tenn. new st. 90, 102 1/2	O. & Mississippi, 22 1/2	15 1/2
Montreal Union Co., 100	St. L. & N. O. pref., 100	15 1/2
St. L. & N. O. Co., 100	Peoria & E. 18	15 1/2
St. L. & N. O. Co., 112 1/2	Pittsburgh, ....	15 1/2
Adams Express, 154	Pullman Palace, 188	15 1/2
Alfon & T. H., 40	St. L. & P. ....	16 1/2
Alfon & T. H., 40	St. L. & P. pref., 16 1/2	16 1/2
American Exp., 113	Wells-Fargo Exp., 31 1/2	16 1/2
Che. & Ohio, 264	St. L. & P. pref., 184	16 1/2
C. & O. pref. 1st 63 1/2	St. L. & P. pref., 184	16 1/2
C. & O. pref. 2d 63 1/2	St. L. & P. pref., 184	16 1/2
Chicago & Alton, 134	St. L. & P. pref., 184	16 1/2
C. B. & Q., 107 1/2	St. L. & P. pref., 184	16 1/2